

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 EB-07 SY-05 USSS-00 /047 W

----- 111053

O R 261330Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7754

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4186

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, OVID (SIMON, WILLIAM E.) IN

SUBJ: SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO INDIA

REF: (A) STATE 062420 (B) STATE 063779

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO INDIA WITH GOI OFFICIALS WHO HAVE WELCOMED THE SECRETARY'S DECISION TO MAKE TO TRIP.

2. SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE CONTAINED REF (B) LOOKS FINE. AS SPELLED OUT IN MORE DETAIL BELOW, WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING HOTELS, SPEECHES, ETC., AND PERCEIVE NO PROBLEMS EXCEPT AS NOTED BELOW.

(A) WE ARE BOOKING 30 DOUBLE ROOMS AT ASHOKA HOTEL AS REQUESTED PARA 7, REF (A). HOWEVER, SINCE ASHOKA HOTEL CHARGES FULL RATE FOR DOUBLE ROOM REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT IS OCCUPIED BY ONE OR TWO PERSONS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE RECEIVE A LIST OF SECRETARY SIMON'S PARTY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT ROOM RESERVATIONS CAN BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY.

(B) THERE ARE NO MARINE GUARDS IN BOMBAY. WE HOPE ARRANGEMENTS SIMILAR TO THAT A MADRAS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE FOR BOMBAY ALSO. IF NOT PLEASE ADVISE AS WE WILL HAVE TO OBTAIN MARINERS FOR BOMBAY DUTY.

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3. RE NEW DELHI PORTION OF VISIT, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE

ALL CALLS IN ONE-HALF DAY, AS SUGGESTED PARA 1, REF (B).

4. ALTHOUGH WE WILL NOT KNOW UNTIL WE CHEK WITH GOI, WE ASSUME THAT FINANCE MINISTER SUBRAMANIAM WILL PROBABLY WISH TO HOST A DINNER IN HONOR OF SECRETARY ON APRIL 16. SECRETARY COULD RETURN FAVOR BY HOSTING DINNER IN HONOR OF SUBRAMANIAM ON APRIL 17. AMBASSADOR SAXBE OFFERS HIS RESIDENCE (ROOSEVELT HOUSE) FOR THIS PURPOSE.

5. PROGRAM FOR REMAINDER OF TIME IN DELHI BEING WORKED OUT AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO SECRETARY AT A LATER DATE.

6. RE AGRA, WE ARE UNDERTAKING WORK OF OBTAINING GOI APPROVAL TO TAKE USAF PLANE TO AGRA ON WAY TO BOMBAY APRIL 18. WE ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEM. A 4-1/2 HOUR STOPOVER IN AGRA WILL ALLOW TIME FOR PARTY TO VISIT THE TAJ MAHAL AND AGRA FORT, BUT WILL RULE OUT FATEHPUR SIKRI.

7. RE BOMBAY PORTION, OUR CONSULATE IS ARRANGING WITH INDO/ AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DINNER AND SPEECH ON APRIL 18. WE BELIEVE A SPEECH ON THE WORLD ENERGY CRISIS WOULD BE RECEIVED WITH EXTREME INTEREST BY BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN BOMBAY. REMAINDER OF PROGRAM IN BOMBAY BEING WORKED UP BY CONGEN AND IS BEING SENT SEPTEL.

8. MADRAS - WE AGREE THAT TOUR OF MADRAS PORT IS THE MOST SENSIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE IFI PROJECT IN MADRAS AREA.

9. WE RECOMMEND THAT NIGHTS OF APRIL 19-20 BE SPENT AT TAJ COROMANDEL HOTEL. MADRAS. AFTER CHEKING INTO HOTEL SECRETARY SIMON AND WHOMEVER ZESE IN PARTY WISH TO ACCOMPANY HIM PROCEED DIRECTLY TO VISIT OF MADRAS PORT. REMAINDER OF SATURDAY WOULD BE FREE FOR SHOPPING AND SIGHTSEEING IN MADRAS. CONGEN WILL ASSIST.

10. ON SUNDAY, APRIL 20, CONGEN WILL ARRANGE TWO PROGRAMS: (A) TRANSPORTATION DIRECTLY TO THE BEACH AT MAHABALIPURAM, ABOUT ONE TO ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS FROM MADRAS FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO SPEND WHOLE DAY ON THE BEACH, AND (B) TOUR OF KANCHIPURAM AND MAHABALIPURAM MONUMENTS AND TEMPLES PRIOR TO SPENDING CONFIDENTIAL

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REMAINDER OF DAY ON THE BEACH AT MAHABALIPURAM. ENTIRE PARTY WOULD RETURN TO TAJ COROMANDEL HOTEL IN MADRAS LATE SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

11. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUEST PARA 1, REF (B), WE ARE SCHEDULING NO SOCIAL FUNCTIONS IN MADRAS. SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE04186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750105-0703
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750314/aaaaalzf.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION TRSE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 062420, 75 STATE 063779
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO INDIA
TAGS: OTRA, OVIP, IN, (SIMON, WILLIAM E)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006